

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1-19 Cancelled.

20 (Currently Amended). A method for the treatment of a disease, which disease involves ~~involving~~ signalling of a cytokine through ~~IL-2~~ cyc in the pathogenesis of said disease, comprising ~~administration~~ administering to a subject in need of an amount therapeutically effective to bind to cyc and inhibit cyc/NIK interaction, amount of NF-κB inducing kinase (NIK) or a mutein, variant, fusion protein, functional derivative, circularly permuted derivative or fragment thereof, which maintains the ability thereof to bind to cyc and inhibit cyc/NIK interaction, in a subject in need with the proviso that the cytokine is other than IL-2.

21 (Withdrawn). The method according to claim 20, wherein the cytokine is IL-12.

22 (Withdrawn). The method according to claim 20, wherein the cytokine is IL-15.

23 (Original). The method according to claim 20, wherein the fragment of NIK comprises the C-terminus of NIK (from residue 624 to 947, SEQ ID NO:19).

24 (Currently Amended). The method according to claim 20, wherein the fragment of NIK comprises NIK 640-720 (SEQ\_ID NO: 18).

25 (Withdrawn). The method according to claim 20, wherein the mutant of NIK is AlyNIK.

26-65 Cancelled

66 (Currently Amended). A method for the treatment and/or prevention of a disease in which activation of a cytokine, having the common gamma chain (cyc) in its receptor, is involved in the pathogenesis of the disease, comprising administering to a subject in need a therapeutically an amount effective to bind to cyc and inhibit cyc/NIK interaction, ~~amount~~ of a polypeptide fragment of NF- $\kappa$ B inducing kinase (NIK), comprising the cyc binding domain (SEQ ID NO: 18), or a mutein, variant, fusion protein, functional derivative, circularly permuted derivative or fragment thereof, ~~to a subject in need~~ which maintains the ability thereof to bind to cyc and inhibit cyc/NIK interaction.

67 (Original). A method according to claim 66, wherein IL-2 is involved in the pathogenesis of the disease.

68 (Withdrawn). A method according to claim 66, wherein IL-15 is involved in the pathogenesis of the disease.

69 (Currently Amended). A method of treatment and/or prevention of a disease in which NF- $\kappa$ B inducing kinase (NIK) and cyc interaction is involved in the pathogenesis of said disease, comprising administering to a ~~host~~-subject in need thereof ~~a therapeutically~~an amount effective to bind to cyc and inhibit cyc/NIK interaction, amount of a polypeptide comprising a fragment of ~~NIK~~,NIK comprising the cyc binding domain (SEQ ID NO: 18), or a mutein, variant, fusion protein, functional derivative, circularly permuted derivative or fragment thereof, which maintains the ability thereof to bind to cyc and inhibit cyc/NIK interaction.

70 (Currently Amended). A method of treatment and/or prevention of a disease in which NF- $\kappa$ B activation is involved, comprising administering to a ~~host~~-subject in need thereof an amount effective to bind to cyc and inhibit cyc/NIK interaction, amount of a fragment of NF- $\kappa$ B inducing kinase ~~NIK~~,(NIK) corresponding to the cyc binding domain (SEQ ID NO: 18), or a mutein, variant, fusion protein, functional derivative, circularly permuted derivative or fragment thereof, which maintains the ability thereof to bind to cyc and inhibit cyc/NIK interaction.

71 (Cancelled).

72 (Withdrawn). A method according to claim 69, for the treatment of cancer.

73 (Currently Amended). A method of treatment and/or prevention of a disease resulting from excessive immune responses, comprising administering to a ~~host~~ subject in need thereof ~~a therapeutically~~ an amount effective to bind to cyc and inhibit cyc/NIK interaction, amount of a polypeptide comprising a fragment of NF- $\kappa$ B inducing kinase NIK, (NIK) corresponding to the cyc binding domain (SEQ ID NO: 18), or a mutein, variant, fusion protein, functional derivative, circularly permuted derivative or fragment thereof, which maintains the ability thereof to bind to cyc and inhibit cyc/NIK interaction.

74 (Original). A method according to claim 73, for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis, inflammatory bowel disease, asthma, cardiac infarct, Alzheimer's disease, or atherosclerosis.

75 (Previously Presented). A method according to claim 69, for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis, inflammatory bowel disease, asthma, cardiac infarct, Alzheimer's disease, or atherosclerosis.

76 (New). A method for the treatment of a disease, which disease involves signalling of a cytokine through cyc in the pathogenesis of said disease, comprising administering to

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a subject in need an amount effective to bind to *cyc* and inhibit *cyc*/NIK interaction, of a fragment of NF- $\kappa$ B inducing kinase (NIK) comprising NIK 640-720 (SEQ ID NO:18), or a mutein, variant, fusion protein, functional derivative, circularly permutated derivative or fragment thereof, which maintains the ability thereof to bind to *cyc* and inhibit *cyc*/NIK interaction.